

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,283,680 to Vidal.

In response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), applicants have amended that claim herein to provide a better definition of the invention. Applicants respectfully maintain that amended claim 1 distinguishes the invention over the prior art and particularly over Vidal.

As set forth in amended claim 1, a powder body metering apparatus comprises a metering container including a first cylinder including an inlet in an upper end thereof and a separate second cylinder arranged so as to be freely adjustable in position with respect to the first cylinder. The powder body metering apparatus further comprises a switch valve for opening and closing the inlet of the metering container. An internal capacity of the metering container is variable by adjusting the position of the second cylinder with respect to the first cylinder. A first opening is provided in a lower portion of the metering container and a separate second opening is provided in a desired portion. The first opening and the second opening are each spaced from the inlet, the first opening communicating with the second opening through the metering container.

Vidal neither discloses nor suggests a powder body metering apparatus with a metering container including a first cylinder and a separate second cylinder arranged so

as to be freely adjustable in position with respect to the first cylinder in order to vary the internal capacity of the metering container.

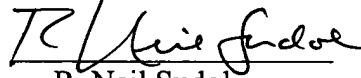
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claim 1, as well as claim 2 dependent therefrom, is deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

COLEMAN SUDOL SAPONE, P.C.

By: 

R. Neil Sudol

Reg. No. 31,669

714 Colorado Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605-1601
(203) 366-3560

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